

**Madisonville Junior High School
Eagle Band Handbook
2009-2010**

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Director of Bands

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WHY I TEACH MUSIC

MUSIC IS A SCIENCE: It is exact, specific and must be 100% correct - 99% is no good. It is unalterable. It demands exact acoustics.

MUSIC IS MATHEMATICAL: It is rhythmically based on the subdivision of time in space into fractions, which must be done instantaneously and not worked out on paper.

MUSIC IS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Most of the terms are in Italian, German, or French, and the notation of notes certainly is not English, but a highly developed kind of shorthand.

MUSIC IS HISTORY: Since music has always reflected the environment and times of its creation - often even the country or racial feeling.

MUSIC IS PHYSICAL EDUCATION: It requires fantastic coordination of fingers, hands, arms, lip, cheek, and facial muscles in addition to extraordinary control of the diaphragm, back, stomach and chest muscles which must respond instantly to the sounds the ear hears and mind interprets.

MUSIC IS ALL OF THESE THINGS, BUT MOST OF ALL MUSIC IS ART.

It allows a human being to take all of these dry, technically boring (but fantastically difficult) techniques and use them to create emotion.

That is the one thing that science cannot duplicate - humanism or feeling or emotion or call it what you will.

THAT IS WHY I TEACH MUSIC.

not because we expect you to major in music
not because we expect you to play music all your life
not so you can relax
not so you can have fun
not so you can trot around the football field in uniform

BUT: so you will be human
so you will recognize beauty
so you will be sensitive
so you will be closer to an infinite beyond our world
so that you'll have something to cling to
so that you will have more love, more compassion,
more gentleness, more good.....in short, more life.

Of what value will it be to make a prosperous living unless you know how to live.

THAT'S WHY I TEACH MUSIC.

(Author Unknown)

Responsibility

Every musician in every band assumes certain responsibilities simply by being a member. Unlike your other classes, everything you do affects every other person in the ensemble, as well as how the public perceives the group. When you appear with the band, whether it is in rehearsal, in performance, or riding a bus, you are no longer identified by your name, but as part of the Madisonville Jr. High School Band. Do everything you can to earn the privilege of being a member of our organization. Make sure you know the exact dates, times, and places of future activities, exactly where and when you have to report, and what you are to wear.

Things you can do to help the MJHS Band have a successful year:

- Be able to play your part well. Practice!
- Be respectful of your officers and captains. Give them a chance to do their jobs well.
- Keep extra reeds, oils, strings, etc., available at all times.
- Be courteous to musical organizations from other schools. If you don't have something positive to say - don't say it!
- Be courteous and friendly to your classmates. You will receive back exactly what you give out.
- Conduct yourself as an outstanding representative of Madisonville Jr. High School.
- Obey the bus drivers and adults in charge.
- Be sure your parents know of your schedule, your commitments, and your responsibilities. Share all announcements and calendars with them well ahead of time.
- Practice!

Rules for Band and Related Activities

All rules and regulations described in the MJHS Student Handbook will be enforced not only during the school day, but also in all out of school performances, practices, and field trips. It is expected that all band members are familiar with them and follow these guidelines. **In order to raise the standards and build upon last year's success, there will be some after school rehearsals throughout the year, especially when concerts are approaching.**

Attendance

The guidelines governing attendance (both during school and for after-school activities) and the effect it has on grading is described below. The only excused absences are for personal illness, death in the family, a "once in a lifetime event," or a school related activity. An absence from an after school rehearsal or performance is **not** excused unless the student was absent from school on that day. Afternoon appointments for regular checkups with doctors, dentists, orthodontists, etc., are not excused absences. The only exception is if the student is attending a function for another club/organization on the same day. Students with conflicts must check with Mr. Messina **before** the day of the rehearsal to discuss any conflicts. Mr. Messina will make arrangements with the sponsor of the other organization/club so that students' other talents can be cultivated as well. Due to the fact that all of the athletic events will not be scheduled by the first day of school, an after-school rehearsal schedule will be handed out and posted on the internet at a later date. Please let Mr. Messina know upon receipt of the calendar(s) if you have a previously scheduled appointment. Any conflicts reported after a week of any handout calendars will be unexcused. Please check your calendar when scheduling appointments.

Some give and take on all parts will be necessary when a student is involved in athletics or other school-sponsored activities as well as band. Mr. Messina will work with the students and sponsors to coordinate practice schedules, but it is the student's responsibility to ensure that **equal time** is allotted for band rehearsals. Performances and competitions will take precedence over rehearsals and practices.

During rehearsals and performances, the student is expected to have all of his/her equipment and to be on time. Rehearsals will move rather quickly. It is important for students to stay focused at all times. Under no circumstances will talking or moving about be allowed during rehearsals.

Grading Policy

First Nine Weeks

40% of grade: Rhythm Charts

First year band students (6th-8th grade) must complete Charts #2 - #8. All other students must complete three additional charts through Chart #32. After Chart #32, students must complete one chart per nine weeks. Each class will be tested three or four times throughout the nine weeks depending on the size of the class. If a student is absent or fails to pass an assigned rhythm chart(s), then he or she will be expected to make an appointment with Mr. Messina in order for completion.

40% of grade: Performance- Marching Music, Materials, Participation, Scales, and Fundamentals

20% of grade: Nine Weeks Exam (Five-note scale patterns, matching pitch with Tuning CD)

Second Nine Weeks

40% of grade: Rhythm Charts

Students must complete three additional charts through Chart #32. After Chart #32, students must complete one chart per nine weeks. Each class will be tested three or four times throughout the nine weeks depending on the size of the class. If a student is absent or fails to pass an assigned rhythm chart(s), then he or she will be expected to make an appointment with Mr. Messina in order for completion.

40% of grade: Performance- Winter Concert Music, Materials, Participation, and Scales

20% of grade: Nine Weeks Exam (TBA)

Third Nine Weeks

40% of grade: Rhythm Charts

Students must complete three additional charts through Chart #32. After Chart #32, students must complete one chart per nine weeks. Each class will be tested three or four times throughout the nine weeks depending on the size of the class. If a student is absent or fails to pass an assigned rhythm chart(s), then he or she will be expected to make an appointment with Mr. Messina in order for completion.

40% of grade: Performance- Festival Music, Materials, and Participation

20% of grade: Nine Weeks Exam (TBA)

Fourth Nine Weeks

40% of grade: Rhythm Charts

Students must complete three additional charts through Chart #32. After Chart #32, students must complete one chart per nine weeks. Each class will be tested three or four times throughout the nine weeks depending on the size of the class. If a student is absent or fails to pass an assigned rhythm chart(s), then he or she will be expected to make an appointment with Mr. Messina in order for completion.

40% of grade: Performance- Spring Concert Music, Materials, Participation, and Scales

20% of grade: Nine Weeks Exam (TBA)

After the grade is averaged for each quarter, points will be deducted for absences, tardiness and other infractions as follows:

Performance (unexcused absence)	10 points
Performance (tardy)	2 points
Rehearsal (unexcused absence)	2 points
Rehearsal (tardy)	1 point
Uniform Infraction (missing/dirty items)	5 points
Consuming unapproved food/drink in uniform	5 points
Materials Infraction (music, flip folder, lyre)	5 points

Transportation Policy

All students are expected to ride the bus to and from field trip destinations.

If a student misses a bus, the parent is responsible for making sure the student is driven to the performance. The parent will find Mr. Messina upon arriving at the performance, to explain the situation and leave the student. The student will ride home on the bus with the band.

Because these rules allow for accurate roll to be checked, they will ensure that your child's whereabouts can be accounted for during any trip. Rest assured that we will not leave a field trip site until all students who are supposed to be on the bus are, indeed, on the bus.

Performance Philosophy and Guidelines for Athletic Events

The MJHS Eagle Marching/Pep Band is involved in two distinct functions during each game. First, the band provides musical and visual support to the team. It is the band's responsibility to be ready to play for each scoring play by the Eagles. The band is also there to provide entertainment for the fans. It is the band's objective to play as often as practical and put on a professional-quality performance. The band members must remember that they are "On Stage" every minute the band is out of the building. To earn the respect of the community, the students must demonstrate self-respect and show that it has pride in itself. To achieve these ends, band members are expected to follow these guidelines:

- Show pride in the uniform by wearing it in the correct manner.
- Remember to behave in a dignified manner while wearing the uniform, while on the field and in the stands.
- As when in class, there will be NO food, candy, gum or drinks allowed in the assigned seating area with the exception of drinks distributed to all students by a band chaperone.
- No one is to play on any instrument individually. Play only when the entire band is playing.
- Since the seating area is one of the stages for the band's performance, only uniformed members of the MJHS Eagle Band and chaperones will be allowed into the area. Students will be expected to help enforce this guideline by communicating this to friends and relatives.
- No jr. high and/or high school age chaperones are allowed at band performances. Chaperones must be approved by Mr. Messina. (i.e., "Friends" cannot march with the band in parades, etc.)

Financial Obligations of Band Members

Every member of the MJHS Eagle Band will need to provide, at his/her own expense, the following items:

- Band Shirt (available for purchase through music office)
- Black dress pants, black shoes, black socks
- Flip folder (available at any music store). This must be obtained by the second week of school.

- Lyre to hold flip folder (You should bring your instrument with you when purchasing since different brands of instruments may require different lyres.)

Our band fee is \$10.00 to help cover the cost of the cleaners, equipment, and music.

School-Owned Instruments

Some students may be issued school-owned instruments for use at home and/or at school. These instruments must be signed out through the Band Director. A form is used, listing the make and brand of instrument, serial number, and condition of the instrument, along with any accessories that are with the instrument. Both the student and a parent are required to sign the check out form.

When a student signs out a school-owned instrument, he or she accepts the full responsibility for that instrument. In the event of any damage to the instrument, the student will be responsible for paying for repairs. In the event of a loss or theft or excessive damage, the student will replace the instrument with one of the same brand and model.

Practice

To be successful in any area means to have achieved your greatest potential. Success in music will come only to those who practice regularly. It's that simple. The band's most successful students are those that practice daily. As with any area of study, independent homework builds necessary skills. It is assumed that students who sign up for band want to improve their musical abilities and learn more about music. This involves regular practice. Each student should work to schedule one-half hour of solid practice daily. Students who practice regularly find their skills increasing to such a degree that they view their practice time as enjoyable, not as "work."

Punctuality

Because band activities involve the coordinated efforts of all members, punctuality is an especially important trait for the individual member.

Whenever a rehearsal is occurring, it goes without saying that all members must be in attendance to maximize the efficiency of the rehearsal. Whenever instrumentalists are missing from rehearsals, balance and blend cannot be adequately addressed. All material covered and progress made by the group is canceled when absentees return and need to be "caught up" on missed achievements.

Productive rehearsals can only begin once every member of the team is present and ready to fully participate. It is out of common courtesy for the other members of the organization that you should arrive before rehearsal starts to get equipment ready and get in place for the start of rehearsal. We will start every rehearsal warming up together unless otherwise instructed.

Punctuality with respect to deadlines is also a highly regarded virtue in band. There are numerous administrative tasks connected with the smooth operation of classes. Often, information or money must be obtained from members before these tasks can be completed. It is out of both a mature sense of responsibility and a regard for doing one's part to avoid the wasted time involved in redoing or delaying the completion of administrative projects that all members respect and meet all deadlines.

In any team activity, every member must recognize that each individual is very important to the team. Everyone must do his or her part. Every member must realize also that individual privileges above and beyond those extended to the rest of the team are unfair.

The Importance of the Instrument in Achieving Success

Parents and students are urged to carefully evaluate the instrument that the student is playing in band. In order to be successful at making quality music, a musician must be working with a quality instrument. There are many analogies available, but the point is many students in band continue to play on instruments that may have been appropriate for a beginner. Frequently, however these "low end" instruments are holding back students whose current ability far out distances the capabilities of the instrument being played. For a jr. high school music student, careful consideration should be given to purchasing a professional quality instrument.

Uniform Information

There are two types of band uniforms, marching and concert. The marching uniform consists of the yellow band shirt, solid black pants, solid black shoes, (can also be tennis shoes), black socks. The concert uniforms consists of a tuxedo shirt, black bow tie and cummerbund, black dress pants, black socks, and black dress shoes for the boys and a black blouse, black dress pants or black tea-length skirt for the girls.

Students in band must obtain black pants, solid black shoes, and black socks. Students will also need to purchase a yellow band shirt. Orders for the shirts will be taken at the beginning of each year. Students are not to wear their shirts except when instructed to do so for music activities. Tuxedo shirts, bow ties, cummerbund, blouses are properties of the MJHS Band and will be distributed before each “concert” performance. Students will be held responsible for any damage that should occur through negligence, such as stains, rips, etc.

Prices for uniforms

Ladies’ blouse= \$23.95

Men’s tuxedo shirt= \$12.00

Cummerbund= \$7.00

Bow tie= \$3.00

Before each performance, Mr. Messina will inspect uniforms. For each uniform infraction, five points will be deducted from the student’s final grade. Food may not be consumed while in uniform, with the exception of dry foods and clear drinks handed out only by parent chaperones after half time. Students will have five points deducted from their final grade if caught eating and/or drinking items that were not distributed by a band chaperone. The student is responsible for the immediate cleaning or replacement of the garment if stained or ruined. The concert uniforms will be brought to the cleaners after every performance.

Fundraising

Whenever a trip is planned, students and parents will receive detailed information, which will include costs and deadlines for periodic deposits to accounts. Many of the expenses of travel must be paid well in advance of a trip, making prepayment necessary. While deposit deadlines will be coordinated with the fund-raising projects, students who do not raise sufficient funds during a given project may need to use their own money to meet deposit deadlines.

Each student will receive information about every fund-raising project, including a time line for completion and deadlines for turning in orders and money. Students must meet all deadlines for turning in orders and money to be assured a part and profit in the project. **STUDENTS WHO DO NOT TURN IN THEIR MONEY ON TIME WILL FORFEIT THEIR PERCENTAGE OF THE PROCEEDS THAT WERE TO GO INTO THEIR BAND TRIP ACCOUNT.**

A percentage of the profits earned by an individual student in a fund-raising project will be deposited with the band account and credited to that student's individual account. These funds will accumulate through the year, and may ONLY be used for trips.

Funds will carry over from year to year. No transfer of funds between students will be allowed. Unused funds remaining in the accounts of graduating eighth graders or students moving out of the District will be placed in the General Account. There is one exception to this policy. Unused funds may be transferred to younger siblings (who are members of the MJHS Band) of graduating eighth graders.

If a student is unable to attend a trip, personal money that was deposited in the individual account cannot be refunded due to costs that affect everyone (i.e., The cost of transportation is not reduced if one student does not attend.) Many attractions will refund money for unused tickets. Every effort will be made to get reimbursement for unused tickets, etc.

When turning in money from fundraisers, **PLEASE PAY BY CHECK/MONEY ORDER ONLY** (made payable to Madisonville Jr. High School Band). **CASH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** Dealing with cash and change wastes valuable class time.

Auditions

Auditions for chair placement for the concert season will occur in November. Students are

seated according to their success during their audition. Students will be given the audition music at least one month prior to auditions. The students will perform their audition behind a screen on their assigned day.

Challenges

Students unhappy with their placement at auditions are allowed to work their way up to higher-level chairs. The process for challenging is as follows:

A student fills out a challenge form and has the person sitting the next chair higher sign the form (no skipping chairs allowed). Only two persons are involved in any one challenge. If the person does not sign the form, then the person challenging automatically wins the challenge and the students change seats. When both students sign the form, the students are given music by Mr. Messina. A convenient time for both students and Mr. Messina is agreed upon.

A student not showing up for the agreed upon time within fifteen minutes of the scheduled time will forfeit the challenge. Most challenges will occur during the school day. This allows other students to listen, which will improve their musicianship, as well.

Students will pick numbers and then perform music behind a screen. Scales will be used on all challenges along with various musical compositions. The winner of the challenge will be announced immediately by number. The winner can challenge the next chair higher. Challenges will not occur three weeks prior to concerts. A student cannot challenge more than once a week.

Band Officers

MJHS Band Officers will each have a specific job in helping to administer, operate, and manage

the band program. All officers are selected for a one-year term. The following is a list of the officers with a brief job description:

1. Drum Major- Candidates for Drum Major must have been a member of the MJHS Band Program for at least one full year. Drum Major responsibilities include:
 - a. Assisting during the roll check process in class and any additional after school rehearsals.
 - b. Assisting in the warm-up procedures.
 - c. Ensuring that all necessary equipment (podium, props, banners, etc.) that is to be used at performances is loaded on the proper vehicles for the trip to and from the event.
 - d. Conducting visual inspections of all band members' uniforms prior to all performances and report any infractions of expectations to Mr. Messina.

The Drum Major is expected to be “at the head of the class” and provide an example of enthusiasm for all band activities.

2. Librarians (appointed) - Responsible for maintaining order in the music library, assisting with music folders, etc.

The band officers serve in its capacity through the guidance of Mr. Messina. All recommendations of the officers will be taken under advisement by the band staff for possible action.

Awards

In any group there will be outstanding members. The awards program is designed to recognize these individuals for various accomplishments. Each student that participates in the band

program at Madisonville Junior High School will receive the appropriate award. Please note that annual awards are for a full year of band service. Students only participating in Marching Band will receive a certificate of participation. Any student with two unexcused absences for performances during the school year will not receive a band award.

The Band Director Award- this award is given, “To a student who demonstrates exceptional talent for music and a willingness to grow and continue learning, thus creating excellence in music within the entire band program as a whole.

Citizenship Award- this award is given, “In recognition of outstanding citizenship demonstrated through superior character.”

Service Award- this award is given, “For going beyond the call in assisting with the large amount of behind the scenes work required to support a band program.”

District Honor Band

The District Honor Band will hold auditions at William Pitcher Jr. High. See the website for the audition, rehearsal, and performance dates. The audition times will be announced at a later date. **Students that are unable to attend all rehearsals and the performance should not audition.** The audition material is currently posted on the District IX web page, www.district9.info.

The audition requirements for the District Honor Band are as follows:

1. The student must be a member* of their jr. high school band program.
2. The student must furnish a \$5.00 audition fee.
3. If selected, the school will furnish the \$15.00 clinic fee.
4. The student must make arrangements for his/her own transportation to and from the audition and rehearsals/concert (if selected).

The District Honor Band is an excellent opportunity for jr. high school musicians. Students are strongly encouraged to audition. Please begin preparations early.

* Member - A student who is registered in the school band program. This is an L.M.E.A. rule.

District Jazz Band

The District Jazz Band will hold auditions usually during the second semester. See the calendar for the audition, rehearsal, and performance dates. **Students that are unable to attend all**

rehearsals and the performance should not audition. The audition material is currently posted on the District IX web page, www.district9.info.

The audition requirements for the District Jazz Band are as follows:

1. The student must be a member* of their jr. high school band program.
2. The student must furnish a \$10.00 **audition** fee.
3. If selected, the school will furnish the \$20.00 **clinic** fee.
4. The student must make arrangements for his/her own transportation to and from the audition and rehearsals/concert (if selected).

The District Jazz Band is an excellent opportunity for high school musicians. Students are strongly encouraged to audition. Please begin preparations early.

* Member - A student who is registered in the school band program. This is an L.M.E.A. rule.

Solo and Small Ensemble Festival

In the spring, students may participate in the Solo and Small Ensemble Festival. This is one of the most important events of the school year. Please see Mr. Messina for appropriate music. Prepare early! The cost for this event is as follows:

Solo: \$5.00
Ensemble: \$TBA per ensemble member

Medals for superior performances will be awarded at the band banquet.

Band Trip

It is possible that a full-band trip will occur during the spring semester. These trips will require serious fund-raising efforts on the part of the students and parents and may require some

out-of-pocket expense. Every effort will be made to give adequate preparation time to find the monetary resources. All members of the band program in good standing will have the opportunity to make these trips; **however, if a student has had two or more conferences with Mr. Messina in regards to behavior, the administration and Mr. Messina reserves the right to deny that student the opportunity to attend the band trip.** Only students that have been band members (schedule in a band class) for the full school year will be permitted to go on the band trip. The only exception to this rule is for students that are not required to be in marching band (i.e., double reeds). Students with two or more unexcused absences for performances will not be allowed to attend the band trip. Students transferring from other schools during the school year must provide documentation to show that they were in band in their previous school and be in good standing with their band director.

Classroom Expectations

In order for effective learning to occur, band classes must be organized and structured. Students are expected to be committed, respectful, responsible, and disciplined.

Students are expected to arrive in the classroom before the tardy bell. They will have two minutes to be in their seat, with their instrument assemble and ready for warm-ups. Failure to accomplish both will result in a warning. A lunch detention will be given for two and more tardies per nine weeks.

Students will be assigned a cubby to store their **instruments**. Anything other than an instrument is prohibited, i.e. music, trash, books, etc. Failure to comply will result in a lunch detention and the possibility of losing the privilege of storing his or her instrument in the band room.

Throughout the year, students will be given multiple copies of music. It is important to not bend, crinkle, etc. the music as we may use the same piece at a later time. At the appropriate time, students will return all of the music. Student will be charge **\$1.50** for every damage (beyond future use) and/or unreturned song.

Students are expected to come to class prepared, with required materials, such as band instrument, accessories (reeds, valve oil, neck strap, cork grease, cleaning swab), band book/music, and a pencil. They should enter quietly, sit down, and do not play until instructed to do so. Consequences shall include a warning, lunch detention, parent conference, referral to the principal. Repeated infractions could ultimately result in a student's removal from the band program

**MADISONVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL BAND
INSTRUMENT LOAN AGREEMENT FORM**

Date: _____

_____ has been loaned the following instrument:

_____ Serial Number _____

Brand _____ Model _____ Condition _____

with the following accessories:

_____ Mouthpiece

_____ Ligature

_____ Lyre

_____ Neck Strap

_____ Mouthpiece Cap

_____ Flip folder

Parent's Consent and Student Agreement

My child, _____, has my permission to borrow a musical instrument from the Madisonville Jr. High School Band. I/We will be responsible to maintain the instrument in good working order.

- If any damage is done to the instrument while it is checked out to my child, I/We will be responsible for the payment of all necessary repairs.
- If any repairs are necessary, I/We will contact Mr. Messina before having repairs performed.
- If the instrument is lost or stolen, I/We, the parents, will pay for replacement of the instrument.

Parent/Guardian Signature

**MADSIONVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
BAND AGREEMENT FORM
2009-2010**

In becoming a member of the Madisonville Junior High School Band, I agree to do my personal best to carry on the tradition of excellence and success both musically and personally. I realize that conscientious attendance and preparation for rehearsals and performances are essential for the Madisonville Junior High School Band to operate successfully. I fully understand the conditions set forth in this handbook, grading policies and agree to abide by them.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Student's Name (Please Print)

This agreement must be signed by both the student and the parent and turned in upon becoming a member of the Madisonville Junior High School Band each year. Students will not participate in any extracurricular band activities (activities held outside of the school day, i.e. football games, concerts, etc.) until the Band Agreement Form is signed and turned in.

**MADSIONVILLE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT VOLUNTEER FORM**

The success of a band program can be measured by the amount of help it receives from parent volunteers. During the school year, parents may be called to help with football games, parades, field trips, performances, etc. Duties may include, chaperoning, dispensing of water and snacks, transportation of equipment, coordinating fund-raising events, etc. If you are interested in volunteering for the MJHS Band Program, please fill out the information below.

Print Name

Home Phone Number

Alternate Number

Email Address